



National Aboriginal Forestry Association

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM NAFA

The Indigenous Forest Sector continues to grow as a vital part of reconciliation, economic development, and sustainable forest management. With over 21.7 million cubic metres of Indigenous tenure, 1,200+ businesses, and 15,000+ full-time Indigenous employees, this sector is thriving. NAFA remains committed to supporting this growth through research, advocacy, outreach, and national/international engagement.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Economic Analysis of Indigenous Tenure:

With NAFA's Indigenous business intelligence and Indigenous-held tenure reports nearing completion, we are beginning development of a national research network to evaluate Indigenous tenure outcomes and opportunities. With 21.7 million cubic metres of commercial tenure held, Indigenous groups are doing some very innovative things. Watch our website for the posting of our formal research reports, and for announcements regarding further research projects - "What's working, What's not?"





ADVOCACY UPDATES

Carbon trading policy:

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has officially convened the ministerial advisory committee for a Federal Offset Protocol for Improved Forest Management on Crown Land. NAFA has again volunteered to sit on the committee and will advocate per our FPIC focus that we utilized for the "Private Lands Protocol." If your nation is interested in these matters, please contact:

Liz Dykman (she/elle)
Offsets and Emissions Trading, Carbon Markets Bureau
Environment and Climate Change Canada / Government of Canada
liz.dykman@ec.gc.ca

Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM):

NAFA delivered a State of the Indigenous Forest address as a part of the "Lunch and Learn" national learning events coordinated by the Indigenous Engagement Committee of the CCFM. Congratulations to the CCFM-Indigenous Engagement Committee and the Ontario co-chairs of the event.



Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program (ILGP):

NAFA together with several Indigenous sectoral organizations successfully advocated for Indigenous forestry's inclusion in Budget 2024/25, securing a \$5 billion commitment for the ILGP. While we requested \$10 billion, with equitable access across all natural resource sectors, we congratulate the federal government and the Indigenous groups who successfully crafted this program. For more information, please contact "Indigenous Access to Capital / Accès autochtone au capital (NRCan/RNCan)": a2c@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

National Summit on the Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy:

NAFA hosted a national summit in Thunder Bay from October 8-10, 2024. Over 140 participants from First Nations, government, industry, and academia gathered to discuss national and regional bioeconomy forest sector policy, programs, and projects. Please see our dedicated website: <https://conference.nafaforestry.org> for presentations, posters, and youtube content. Congratulations to all the innovative First Nations groups who are pushing the Indigenous Forest Sector to new heights.

Ngā Pou a Tāne (National Māori Forestry Association):

With over 21.7 million cubic metres of commercial tenure held in Canada, and over 3.3 million cubic metres of commercial tenure held in Aotearoa, NAFA and Ngā Pou a Tāne shared experiences regarding Indigenous forest tenure, business development, and market development. Interestingly, while First Nations' tenure volume is much larger given Canada's sprawling land mass, Māori economic efficiency for their island sized tenure holdings is 100% due to the plantation style forestry they practice. Congratulations to our Kiwi relatives on the establishment and launch of Ngā Pou a Tāne.



NAFA

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